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Letters to the Editor

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Allard Lowenstein

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Richard Cummings's March 15 letter complaining about Charles Kaiser's review of his book on Allard Lowenstein further misstates the truth about the late congressman.

First, affidavits demonstrate that the CIA had nothing to do with Mr. Lowenstein's army deferment—which was secured through the intervention of Eleanor Roosevelt—and that Mr. Lowenstein was one of the few people working on the National Student Association's international activities who had nothing whatsoever to do with the CIA. Second, Frank Carlucci has specifically denied Mr. Cummings's assertions about Lowenstein's African and Portuguese activities. Third, Harris Wofford, in an affidavit, has described Cummings's Lowenstein-as-CIA agent theory as "nonsense." Fourth, CIA documents at the time that Cummings claims that Lowenstein was working for the CIA to overthrow Franco show instead that the CIA operatives in Spain reported that Lowenstein was a troublemaker who represented only himself. Fifth, the true nature of Lowenstein's foreign travels and non-CIA sources of funds are disclosed in numerous affidavits. Finally, after your review appeared, Leon Friedman, the Hofstra law professor and ACLU participating attorney who represented Cummings's publisher against the CIA and Lowenstein against the FBI executed an affidavit in which he unequivocally states that Lowenstein was never a CIA agent. Indeed, Mr. Friedman had in his possession documents produced by the FBI in which—at the very time that Cummings claims Lowenstein was a CIA agent—the CIA repeatedly informed the FBI that Lowenstein never had any connection with the CIA.

In view of all this hard proof, Mr. Cummings's continued accusations about Mr. Lowenstein are both incredible and outrageous.

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